

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Voice of America Broadcasts in Korea

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1. Voice of America broadcasts were proscribed in Pyongyang under the Communist regime, but with an ordinary radio receiving set (as, for example, nine-tube models sold by Churin and Company in Pyongyang) it was possible to receive the broadcasts clearly. Reception of the daily news summary at 1200 hours was so clear that it was sometimes necessary to turn down the volume in order to avoid betraying what program was being heard. The noon broadcast was rarely jammed because almost all personnel were at work at that time and had no access to home radios.
2. The 1830 news summary was clearly audible unless, as occasionally happened, it was jammed. The 2300 broadcasts were frequently and intensely jammed, but the general sense of the announcements was usually intelligible.
3. The Voice of America broadcasts kept their hearers well informed concerning the world situation and even of the war in Korea in spite of the biased interpretations of foreign news and the war situation made by TASS in all other press and radio media.
4. On one occasion, a business caller at the home of Vladimir Vasiliyevich Semekhin, chief clerk of Torgpredstvo in Pyongyang, found him listening late at night to the Voice of America. Semekhin excused himself with the statement: "I was just listening to how the Americans lie...."
5. Reception of Voice of America broadcasts is estimated to be approximately the same in the Maritime Provinces of the USSR as in North Korea.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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